

## Calderon, Wanda

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**From:** Reyes, Brenda  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:31 AM  
**To:** Mears, Mary; Harris-Bishop, Rusty; Acevedo, Janie; Seppi, Pat; Region2 RRC-DRIC  
**Cc:** Mugdan, Walter; Guerrero, Carmen; Kluesner, Dave; Guerrero, Carmen  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT: ISSUE RAISED BY BRENDA IN CEPD - PEOPLE MAY BE DRINKING WATER FROM SOME OF OUR SF SITES

There is more to this.

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**From:** Mears, Mary  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 8:07 AM  
**To:** Harris-Bishop, Rusty <Harris-Bishop.Rusty@epa.gov>; Acevedo, Janie <Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov>; Seppi, Pat <Seppi.Pat@epa.gov>; Region2 RRC-DRIC <Region2\_RRC-DRIC@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Mugdan, Walter <Mugdan.Walter@epa.gov>; Guerrero, Carmen <guerrero.carmen@epa.gov>; Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>; Reyes, Brenda <Reyes.Brenda@epa.gov>; Guerrero, Carmen <guerrero.carmen@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT: ISSUE RAISED BY BRENDA IN CEPD - PEOPLE MAY BE DRINKING WATER FROM SOME OF OUR SF SITES

I agree with putting the general language about tampering with or drinking out of wells into our daily news release.

I think it is up to Ops to determine whether we should take any actions at our groundwater sites – for example, post signs. I would support this too, but I don't want to interfere in the response.

Mary Mears  
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(212) 637-3660 (General Office)  
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**From:** Harris-Bishop, Rusty  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 6:28 PM  
**To:** Mears, Mary <[Mears.Mary@epa.gov](mailto:Mears.Mary@epa.gov)>; Acevedo, Janie <[Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov](mailto:Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov)>; Seppi, Pat <[Seppi.Pat@epa.gov](mailto:Seppi.Pat@epa.gov)>; Region2 RRC-DRIC <[Region2\\_RRC-DRIC@epa.gov](mailto:Region2_RRC-DRIC@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Mugdan, Walter <[Mugdan.Walter@epa.gov](mailto:Mugdan.Walter@epa.gov)>; Guerrero, Carmen <[guerrero.carmen@epa.gov](mailto:guerrero.carmen@epa.gov)>; Kluesner, Dave <[kluesner.dave@epa.gov](mailto:kluesner.dave@epa.gov)>; Reyes, Brenda <[Reyes.Brenda@epa.gov](mailto:Reyes.Brenda@epa.gov)>; Guerrero, Carmen <[guerrero.carmen@epa.gov](mailto:guerrero.carmen@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT: ISSUE RAISED BY BRENDA IN CEPD - PEOPLE MAY BE DRINKING WATER FROM SOME OF OUR SF SITES

Hi everyone:

We've notified the DRICs about this issue. Our assessment teams assessed the site on October 6 and noted that follow-up was required. Chris Jimenez was going to direct a team to go out to the site tomorrow, and we'll know more about actions once the team has gone back to the site.

I looked online and found that we had a No-Action ROD for the site last year. This is what I found in the Proposed Plan:

“EPA’s assessment of soil and groundwater at the Site has not identified any areas of soil or groundwater contamination that would pose an unacceptable current or future risk to human health or the environment. The volatile organic compounds (VOCs) found in groundwater prior to 2009 were the basis for placing the Site on the NPL; however, EPA’s RI studies indicate that the VOCs have dissipated. . “

I don’t know if we have any sampling data for the well, but that would help in determining any risk posed by the well water. If we can get historical sampling data for the wells that were tampered with, we can be specific about warning on this site. However, we will also put a general warning into tomorrow’s press release to not tamper with closed wells and to not drink from unknown wells of questionable quality.

Give me a call if you have any questions or ideas, at 415-694-8840.

Thanks!

Rusty  
Assistant PIO for Media  
Hurricane Maria REOC

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**From:** Mears, Mary  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 2:33 PM  
**To:** Acevedo, Janie <[Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov](mailto:Acevedo.Janie@epa.gov)>; Harris-Bishop, Rusty <[Harris-Bishop.Rusty@epa.gov](mailto:Harris-Bishop.Rusty@epa.gov)>; Seppi, Pat <[Seppi.Pat@epa.gov](mailto:Seppi.Pat@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Mugdan, Walter <[Mugdan.Walter@epa.gov](mailto:Mugdan.Walter@epa.gov)>; Guerrero, Carmen <[guerrero.carmen@epa.gov](mailto:guerrero.carmen@epa.gov)>; Kluesner, Dave <[kluesner.dave@epa.gov](mailto:kluesner.dave@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** URGENT: ISSUE RAISED BY BRENDA IN CEPD - PEOPLE MAY BE DRINKING WATER FROM SOME OF OUR SF SITES  
**Importance:** High

Janie and Rusty and Pat,  
[Note to Janie and Rusty: Brenda does public affairs and community work for our Caribbean Environmental Protection Division] See her note below. I am cc:ing Walter for awareness.

**Can one of you please report this to REOC Ops immediately?** I don’t know if the water from these wells poses a short-term risk, but I leave it to our experts to figure out how to stop people from drinking the water from these wells.

Media outreach and flyers may well be needed too, as Brenda notes, but I think the first step is to get Ops involved. They might be able to install some security at the sites, if appropriate.

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**From:** Reyes, Brenda  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 5:20 PM  
**To:** Mears, Mary <[Mears.Mary@epa.gov](mailto:Mears.Mary@epa.gov)>; Kluesner, Dave <[kluesner.dave@epa.gov](mailto:kluesner.dave@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Guerrero, Carmen <[guerrero.carmen@epa.gov](mailto:guerrero.carmen@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** URGENT MEDIA COMMUNITY ISSUE

It came to our attention this afternoon that one of the teams assessing Superfund sites found out that residents tampered the well in Caguas Hormigas Superfund site and are using it to extract water. The winds took out all signs in this Superfund sites. Upon making a few phone calls we found that in the wells in Dorado Superfund site water was extracted on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and our CDM contractor confirmed that a resident of Maunabo had requested to use the water at the wells in the site.

Yesterday I had told CEPD Director that my most pressing concern was the use of water in the San Germán Superfund site where we have an unknown number of wells that were dug in 1975 after Hurricane Eloise, when residents were without water for many months. These Superfund sites have VOC's and are at different stages in the process.

I strongly suggest we make a media pitch on radio and print with CEPD director urging people no to tamper these wells or use that water, work to have signs up ASAP, make flyers that can be distributed house to house and within the communities and the neighborhoods. This is an URGENT matter.

Please contact Carmen and/or myself.

Brenda

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